



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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School is Back in Session: Slow Down and Pay Attention

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (September, 2016) – School is back in session and the Bainbridge Island Police Department (BIPD) wants to remind you to slow down to keep our children safe.

Bainbridge Island Police officers are enforcing the 20 mile per hour speed limit in the island's five school zones. The 20mph speed limit is in effect from 7am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, except for Hyla School on Bucklin Hill Road, which is in effect when the amber lights on the school zone signs are flashing. School zone speeding fines are much steeper than your average speeding ticket. From 1-5 mph over the speed limit drivers can expect a \$214 ticket, 6-10 mph over will be \$234, 11-15 mph over is \$296, and from 16-20 mph is \$378. If you are traveling 36 mph or more over the 20 mph, the fine is \$808. Unlike a regular speeding ticket, a penalty incurred for speeding in a school zone "may not be waived, reduced, or suspended." (RCW 46.61.440(3))

It's also important for drivers to remember that it is illegal to pass a school bus with its stop paddle out and red lights flashing. The fine for going around a school bus is \$419. School bus drivers are vigilantly watching to see that traffic stops when they pick up or discharge students, and they submit violations of the law to BIPD on a special form. Officers will investigate, and if they believe the driver committed the violation, they are required to write the ticket. This penalty may also not be waived, reduced, or suspended.

"Getting to your destination a moment sooner is not worth putting a child in danger," stated Chief Matthew Hamner. "Please slow down, put your mobile devices away, and be on the lookout for children on their way to and from school."

Whether walking, driving, or bicycling, the officers of the Bainbridge Island Police Department urge you to pay attention to your surroundings, assume that other drivers and pedestrians are distracted, and report moving violations to your police department by dialing 911.

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